



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIAN

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The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #GBW-05-035c

TITLE: Provisions Affecting Title VI Programs Affecting American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Elders in the Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act For Submission to the White House Conference on Aging

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WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, Title VI of the Older Americans Act states that the “purpose of this title is to promote the delivery of supportive services, including nutrition services, to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians that are comparable to services provided under title III;” in conformity with the trust responsibility of the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the title also states that it is the sense of Congress that these older individuals “are a vital resource entitled to all benefits and services available and that such services and benefits should be provided in a manner that preserves and restores their respective dignity, self-respect and cultural identities;” and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress, in its 2000 amendments to the Older Americans Act, authorized that the Secretary may make grants available “to pay all of the costs for delivery of supportive services and nutrition services for older individuals who are Indians;” and

WHEREAS, the Administration has failed to request adequate funding to pay for the delivery of supportive services such as transportation and nutrition services for Indian Elders that are being served by Title VI programs; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States, in its 2000 amendments to the Older Americans Act, found that “older individuals who are Indians are served under Title III at a rate of less than 1 percent of the total participants under that title;” and

18% fall in the Home and Community Based Services category of need according to the 2005 Data from the National Resource Center on Native American Aging.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby: request from the President and Congress of the United States to provide the necessary services under Title VI to American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Elders that the Older Americans Act and the federal trust responsibility are designed to address by implementing the following recommendations:

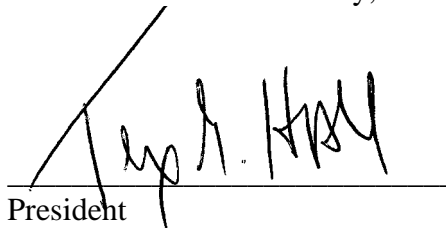
- Assistant Secretary and the Office of American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Affairs shall act as an advocate and request level of need funding for all qualified Title VI programs when the President formulates his annual budget;
- Require the Area Agencies on Aging under Title III to work closely with the Title VI in providing services to Indian Elders;
- Increase appropriations for Title VI from \$26.4 million to \$100 million by 25% increments annually;
- Provide adequate funding for supportive services such as transportation and provision of meals up to seven days a week;
- Request adequate funding for proper training, background checks, technical assistance and other resources for Title VI staff as well as caregivers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until the Older Americans Act has been reauthorized, whether in the 109th U.S. Congress or in subsequent sessions if not reauthorized in the 109th Congress; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

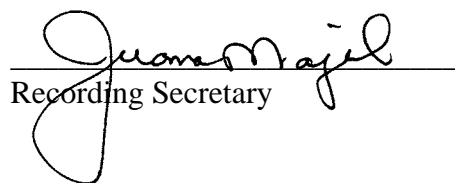
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2005 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center Green Bay, Green Bay, Wisconsin on June 12–15, 2005 with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 2005 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center Green Bay, in Green Bay, Wisconsin.